

COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION
WITH THE GCC STATES**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. Poe of TEXAS. Mr. Speaker, our historic relationship with the Arab Gulf states is strategically crucial. The ties we maintain allow us to project power to contain threats like Iran and secure key shipping lanes for global commerce while also providing stability in a chaotic region. Our Gulf partners have made clear they value their strong alliance with the United States.

But our relationship has not always been perfect. The 9/11 attacks were a tragic wake-up call to a dangerous ideology that we had long ignored. Sunni extremism had established strong roots across the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. This intolerant and violent strain of Islam was largely able to spread so widely because it was funded and supported by some of our Gulf allies.

Some would call this a betrayal: while GCC states were benefiting from security and stability provided by the U.S., they were fostering radical ideologies that sought to target and kill Americans. It is no coincidence that among the 19 hijackers who conducted the 9/11 attacks, 17 came from the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. In part, al-Qaeda did this deliberately to damage the GCC alliance with the U.S. But the high number of Saudi recruits and the fact that al-Qaeda was founded and led by a Saudi named Osama bin Laden, also showed that something was not quite right in the Kingdom. The Saudi monarchy's embrace of the Wahhabi ideology produced generations of young Saudis who despised the West and held hateful views of other religions.

After 9/11, the Kingdom and the rest of the GCC states pledged cooperation with the U.S. to fight terrorism, but little was done. Wealthy financiers and hateful preachers continued to operate across the GCC. For years, many of our Gulf allies tried to play both sides of the War on Terror. They acted both as the arsonists and the firefighters. While the U.S. military launched airstrikes against terrorists in the region from Gulf air bases, money and recruits flowed to terrorist from the same Gulf countries. We were basically chasing our tails.

Ultimately, not George W. Bush, nor Barack Obama, nor Donald Trump can convince young Muslims that al-Qaeda or ISIS's version of Islam is the wrong one. An American president, regardless of party affiliation, will never be able to effectively argue that jihad against the West is not the answer to the problems of the Middle East. It is only the leaders of the Muslim world who can make that argument.

In recent years, we have seen progress by the Gulf states towards tackling the sources of extremism within their borders. They have recognized that this is not just the U.S.'s fight: their own security is at stake. The Saudis have infiltrated terrorist groups to thwart attacks on the West and detained radical clerics who once incited thousands to join al-Qaeda or ISIS. The UAE is leading the region in developing messaging to counter violent extremism and has prioritized targeting al-Qaeda in Yemen. Bahrain now hosts the region's Financial Action Task Force and amended its charity law to closely monitor terrorist financing

and enact harsh penalties on violators. Kuwait has also intensified its charity monitoring and outlawed fundraising for terrorist groups online. Meanwhile, Oman remains a haven for tolerance and moderate Islam, effectively preventing terrorists from using its territory for fundraising or recruitment. Even Qatar has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. last summer to cooperate on counterterrorism and has created terrorist designation lists. Trust is finally being restored.

But there is still more work to be done. Many promises remain unfulfilled. Qatar still harbors Hamas operatives and al-Qaeda fundraisers. The Saudis still publish intolerant material in their textbooks that glorify jihad and incite hatred and violence. Additionally, Kuwait still has designated terrorists living freely in their borders. Oman remains suspiciously tied to the region's number one state sponsor of terrorism, Iran, and reports of arms smuggling through Oman to Yemen's Houthi rebels persist. No GCC member is contributing enough to prevent ISIS from reemerging in Syria and Iraq. And the Saudi-led coalition is overly focused on Iran's meddling in Yemen while al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula survives in the chaos.

We need our Gulf partners to aggressively and pro-actively combat Sunni extremism across the region. Not to wait for the U.S. to take the lead or ask them nicely. All the drones and special forces in the world cannot destroy an ideology this deeply rooted. The fight against terrorism must start and end on the ideological battlefield. Treating the symptoms and not the underlying disease will ultimately not be enough.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. PASCHAL
WARD**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved educator and outstanding citizen, Mr. Paschal Ward. Mr. Ward will be retiring from his post as the Director of Bands at Bainbridge High School. He will be honored by the administration, faculty, students, and supporters at a celebratory reception on Saturday, May 5, 2018 in Bainbridge, Georgia.

The Prattville, Alabama native earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Music Education from Troy State University in Alabama. Since 1985, he has served as the Director of Bands at Bainbridge High School. He has built an impressive career, which began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served as the Director of Bands in Goshen, Alabama. He later became the Director of Bands at Charles Henderson High School in Troy, Alabama; the University of West Alabama; and Livingston State University in Livingston, Alabama.

Under his direction, the Charles Henderson High School band program received superior ratings in both marching and concert competitions for eight consecutive years; the participation in the Livingston State University Collegiate Band Program doubled; the Decatur County Band program received numerous

Proclamations and Senate Resolutions from the Governors of Alabama and Georgia; and the Bainbridge High School Symphonic Band has been awarded Superior Ratings by the Georgia Music Educators Band Festival and Georgia Bandmasters Association for thirty-three consecutive years.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and able leader when Mr. Ward arrived in Decatur County in 1985. Mr. Ward has also served on numerous community boards, and as Chairman of the Alabama Band Association for District Eight; a member of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Visiting Committee; the National Band Association for District Eight; the Southeastern U.S. Honor Band Clinic; and the Georgia Music Educators Association. He also received an honorary membership into Kappa Kappa Psi National Band Fraternity, Incorporated.

A talented and precise music director, Mr. Ward has received numerous accolades and awards for his musical expertise. These honors include a feature in the ("Who's Who among America's Teachers" in 1992 and 1996; an Outstanding Alumni Award in Music Education by Troy State University in 1993; a spot in the National Band Director Hall of Fame as the Band Director of the Year in 1996; a Star-Teacher Award in 2001; a Man of the Year Award in 2006 and an Outstanding Teacher Award in 2010 from the Bainbridge Kiwanis Club; a National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in 2007; a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in 2009, which I presented to him; and the title of Roastee of the Year by the Bainbridge Pilot Club in 2011.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: ("You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Paschal Ward has established a legacy of musical distinction in Bainbridge where he has done a tremendous job of educating students. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise in his field are unparalleled.

Paschal has accomplished much in his life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of his wife, Pamela, and their children, Rachael and Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Paschal Ward upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding thirty-three year career in music education.

TRIBUTE TO WANDA AND BOB
WOLDRUFF**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Wanda and Bob Woldruff on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Wanda and Bob's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow and may they continue to cherish and honor one another for many more years to come.